

Appendix A: Pre-Teaching Student Survey Responses

Survey

Age 20 ☒ Male / Female Year: Freshman ☒ Sophomore Junior Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) History / Justice German Minor

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

German + Hungarian grandparents. Fair German proficiency
my speaking skills have suffered

Years/semesters of German 7 total

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? ☒ Y ☐ N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 3 4 ☒ 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

Yes, either in Germany or New Zealand next year

☒ Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

~~Language~~ Family, Profession

☒ Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them?
(teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

Horrible teachers poor presentation of material, class out of control.

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, writing, reading, listening, watching, ☒ in-class work, homework, independent-study, ☒ group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work? ☒ 😊 😐 ☹️

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

remembering all the rules of grammar

What do you think would help you improve your German?

learning all the rules for grammar remembering vocab.

☒ If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

more speaking and grammar work

Survey

Age 18 Male ☒ Female ☐ Year: ☒ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) International Studies

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

3 years French, but no proficiency
- On 2nd year German

Years/semesters of German 4th semester in German

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? ☒ Y ☐ N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 3 ☒ 4 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

Germany - Berlin, specifically. Or maybe
Prague.

Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

Yes - Abroad or on travel - language proficiency
is always useful

Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them?
(teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

In order for me to speak, I generally don't volunteer
myself. I need to practice sentence structure when
speaking, so it's helpful when all students have to speak -
it's easier for me to talk when it is required.

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, writing,
reading, listening, watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects,
skits, other _____

How do you feel about partner and group work? ☒   ☐  depends

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

Sentence structure + Grammar + Vocabulary

What do you think would help you improve your German?

Speaking more often - becoming more comfortable
with vocabulary

If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

Some students may need some more coaxing than
others. I'm a shy person, but in a comfortable
atmosphere I find I'm more willing to participate
+ learn.

Survey

Age 18 Male / Female Year: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) Political Science, SIS

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

English native speaker, no languages taken besides German

Years/semesters of German 3.5 years

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? Y/N Maybe?

How important is learning German for you?

1 2 3 4 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

No; hopefully in a year or two, not sure where

*Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

Yes; anything involving a visit to a German-speaking country or just German culture

*Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

Good: relaxed environment, consistent structure, plenty of grammar
Bad: not enough vocab

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, writing, reading, listening, watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work?



What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

holes in my own knowledge

What do you think would help you improve your German?

more practice, a bigger vocabulary

*If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

The class has a wide range of ability; make sure to take time to work both with the full class and individually

Survey

Age 21 ☒ Male / Female Year: Freshman Sophomore ☒ Junior Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) History

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

Native- English Foreign 1 year German at AU. 1 Semester Abroad with FU-BEST. High School Spanish.

Years/semesters of German 3 Semesters of German (Current Excluded)

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? ☒ Y / N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 3 ☒ 4 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?
I have studied in Berlin with AU Abroad for 1 Semester.

☒ Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?
I'm not sure. It would be useful were I to apply it in my History Major.

☒ Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)
Some of my classes put too much focus on grammar and not enough on speaking.

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, writing, reading, listening, watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work? ☒ ☒ ☒

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?
The use and placement of verbs is reversed from English. The Tenses.

What do you think would help you improve your German?
Another semester in Germany.
Oh god, the Tenses. And the Cases... German is tough.

☒ If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?
Make us speak in German unless it is imperative or necessary for English to be used.

Survey

Age 18 Male ☒ Female ☐ Year: ☒ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) undeclared, possibly German

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

native English speaker

Years/semesters of German 4 years in high school, 1 semester in college

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? ☒ Y ☐ N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 3 4 ☒ 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

no, but I might like to study abroad in Germany.

*Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

If I major in German, I would like to translate and would therefore use German every day.

*Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

I liked learning grammar and vocabulary and then applying it to a short German story.

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, ☒ writing, ☒ reading, ☒ listening, watching, in-class work, ☒ homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work? 😊 😐 😞

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

applying grammatical concepts

What do you think would help you improve your German?

practicing more on my own and speaking more German outside of class

*If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

Don't completely ignore vocabulary. Even beyond the beginner level, it's always good to learn new words.

Survey

Age 18

Male / Female

Year: Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) Undeclared (currently considering double major in Literature and German)

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

Native: English

German for 6 1/2 years

Years/semesters of German

high school

college

6 years and one semester

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? (Y)/N

How important is learning German for you?

1 2 3 4 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

No, but I have been considering going to the Freie Universität in Berlin in summer 2009

*Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

As previously stated I am considering majoring in German so it will be very important. Also my parents want to travel to Germany and use me as a translator >->. My father's most important clients are situated in Germany.

*Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

In high school I had the same teacher and ten classmates for all six years. It was a friendly environment. I like when the teacher speaks German the entire time. It is a good learning tool.

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, writing, reading, listening, watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work? ☺ ☹ ☹

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

When something in our text isn't clear. Sometimes it makes me feel like I am not good enough

What do you think would help you improve your German?

More vocabulary. I feel as if my grammar is good (not perfect) but I feel that I still can't say a lot because my vocabulary isn't big enough

*If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

Speak your language in class. Note your students faces to see if they are following. Don't be afraid to stray from the lesson plan if students aren't following. Smile.

Survey

Age 18 Male / (Female) Year: (Freshman) Sophomore Junior Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) International studies

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

Greek fluent

Years/semesters of German 7 years

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? (Y) / N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 (3) 4 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

I am planning on studying abroad in Turkey
or Lebanon.

(*) Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

Yes but only in I work in a European country

(*) Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them?
(teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

Watching a German movie than summarizing in German
circle sitting not rows, longer essays

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, (writing),
(reading), (listening), watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects,
skits, other _____

How do you feel about partner and group work? 😊 😐 😞

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

a sentence ~~st~~ structure

What do you think would help you improve your German?

writing longer essays and being exposed to more
native speaking

(*) If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

do not use the textbook as a key component
but rather an accessory

Survey

Age 18 Male / Female Year: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) International Studies

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

English, German

Years/semesters of German 4 years in high school 2 semesters at AU

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? Y / N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 3 4 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

I plan on studying abroad either in Kenya or South Africa.

*Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

I don't feel that German will be particularly useful to me per say. Within my major and work I don't plan on focusing on Europe and I feel that is where I'd get the most out of my German skills

*Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

In high school we often did pages of grammar and then learned the culture. I don't feel that the actual skill of speaking the language and vocabulary were stressed. Most of my German classes have been very relaxed

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, writing, reading, listening, watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work? 😊 😐 ☹️

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

Sentence structure and tenses

What do you think would help you improve your German?

be held accountable for essays and be expected to speak and understand at an early level of German

*If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

Don't focus on one aspect of the language be sure to develop all parts equally

Survey

Age 20 Male / Female Year Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) Undecided

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

English, some German (nicht sehr gut)

Years/semesters of German 5 Semesters

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? Y / N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 3 4 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

No, but I've been abroad. I plan to study in Germany or Europe.

* Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

Yes, by living there.

* Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

In high school, I liked my classes but they could get boring.

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, writing, reading, listening, watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work? 😊 😐 ☹️

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

Listening, reading, and writing.

What do you think would help you improve your German?

Immersing myself in the language more

* If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

Don't know. Make us memorize more words.

Survey

Age 18 Male / Female Year: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) International Relations & Political Science & Literature

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)
This is my 5th year in German, I took 3 years of French in Middle School

Years/semesters of German 5 years of German

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? Y / N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 3 4 5
 (1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?
I have studied in Germany for a month on an exchange program

*Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?
It could be useful in the business world possibly. Or if I lived or travelled in a German speaking country. Or if I was involved in the UN.

*Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)
My old teacher was hard. It was a very tight knit class and I loved it. He focused on reading & vocab which helped a lot.

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, writing, reading, listening, watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other _____

How do you feel about partner and group work? 😊 😐 😞

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?
The grammar.

What do you think would help you improve your German?
More vocabulary and reading assignments.

*If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?
Use English as little as possible.

Survey

Age 19

Male / ☒ Female

Year: ☒ Freshman

☐ Sophomore

☐ Junior

☐ Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) Business & Language Culture

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

English and German is a foreign language

Years/semesters of German 10 years

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? Y / ☒ N

How important is learning German for you?

1 2 3 4 ☒ 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

No, but I will study a semester in Berlin and a semester in New Zealand

☒ Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

My major will probably place me in a job in Germany and I will probably be working out internships there over the summers

☒ Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

I want to learn something new and we always seem to be reviewing. I also want more speaking practice.

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises, games, speaking, writing, reading, listening, ☒ in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work? 😊 ☒ 😐 😞

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

The 800,000 grammar rules

What do you think would help you improve your German?

More speaking, especially slang

☒ If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

Make your kids speak only the language and teach more slang because it's hard to go from learning the proper lang. and then go to the country and it's all confusing.

Survey

Age 19 Male / Female Year: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) international relations / economics

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

native: English German I-IV high school, Int I. college

Years/semesters of German 5 yrs

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? (Y) N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 3 (4) 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

No - planning to study abroad Berlin / Switzerland

⊗ Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

I would like to work in government intelligence and languages are an important part of that

⊗ Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

hated that I was with people who didn't care only took class b/c they had to - I learn better through a variety of activities rather than just Q&A; one thing I miss about high school

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook exercises games speaking writing reading listening watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work? ☺ ☹ ☹

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

genders & cases

What do you think would help you improve your German?

variety of learning styles

⊗ If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

make it interesting, don't worry about getting off track, we like to hear random stories about somewhere you've been, it makes us more motivated to learn

Survey

Age 20 Male / Female ☒ Year: Freshman ☒ Sophomore Junior Senior

Major(s)/Minor(s) Print Journalism

Language background (native and foreign languages; proficiency)

native language: Japanese
foreign language: English, German

Years/semesters of German SP 08, intermediate

Would you categorize yourself as a "language person"? Y / ☒ N

How important is learning German for you? 1 2 ☒ 3 4 5
(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Have you studied abroad? Where? How long? If you haven't, are you planning to? Where?

Germany (1 month), Switzerland (3 yrs)

*Do you think German will ever be useful to you? In what kind of situation / context can you picture yourself using German in the future?

I don't think German is not so useful if I live in Japan since most people don't speak or learn it. Nevertheless, I might be able to use it when I travel in German-speaking countries.

*Think about your previous language classes. What did you like and dislike about them? (teaching methods, materials, focus of the class, structure of the class etc.)

I love to study grammar, so I have no problem doing grammatical practices. However, in Japan, I didn't have much opportunity to practice speaking, which I am not satisfied with language classes in Japan.

How do you learn best? Circle all that apply: workbook ☒ exercises, games, speaking, writing, reading, listening, watching, in-class work, homework, independent-study, group work, projects, skits, other

How do you feel about partner and group work? ☒ ☒ ☒

What do you find most challenging/frustrating about learning German?

What do you think would help you improve your German?

* If you could give some advice to language teachers, what would it be?

Providing some interesting information about German, perhaps.